MATURE CONTENT
Basilisk
1
THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS
ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

Basilisk

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY DAVID URY

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

1

Basilisk

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Basilisk

1

THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ...
THESE TWO...
...NINJA CLANS...
...HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES...
SLITHER
SINCE...
SWACK
THE DAWN OF TIME.

Basilisk

THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

ORIGINAL STORY BY

FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY

MASAKI SEGAWA

YEAR 19 OF THE KEICHO PERIOD, APRIL.
SUNPU CASTLE
KILL NUMBER 1
[10 VS 10]
IEYASU TOKUGAWA
SHOGUN
HANZO HATTORI
HEAD OF THE TOKUGAWA NINJA CLAN
MUNENORI YAGIYUU
MASTER FENCING INSTRUCTOR

YASHAMARU

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

OGEN IGA

HEAD OF IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

SUWAHH

DANJOU KOUGA

HEAD OF KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI

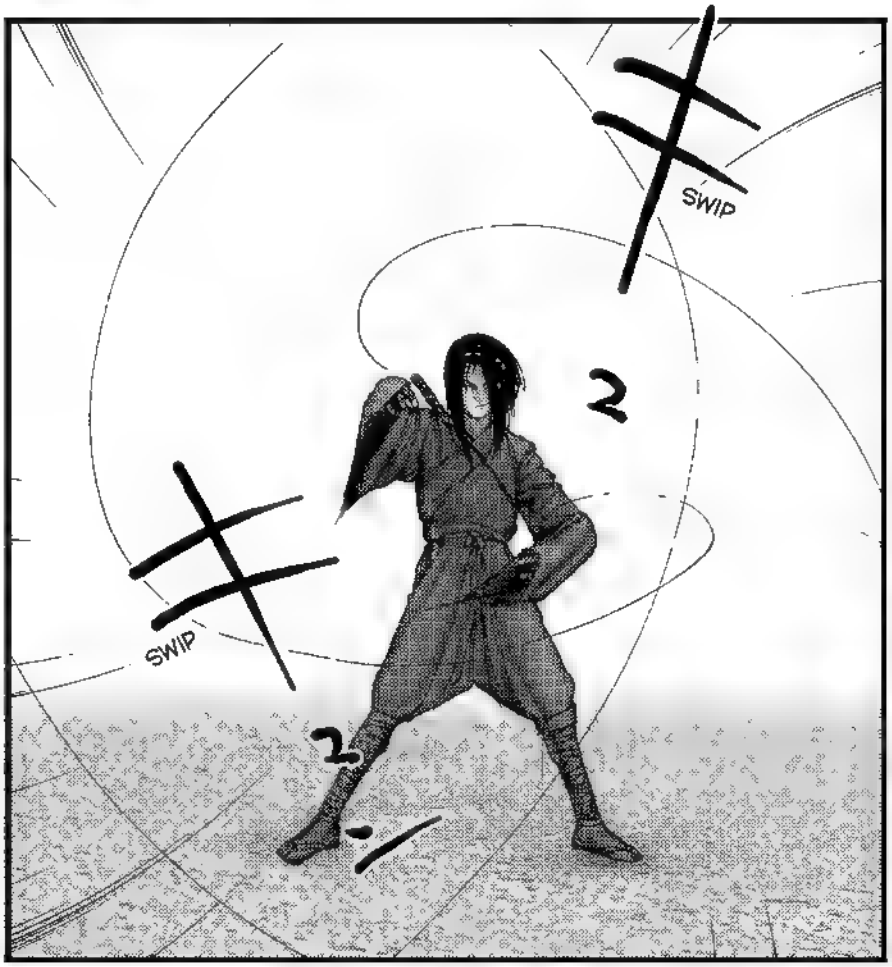
KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

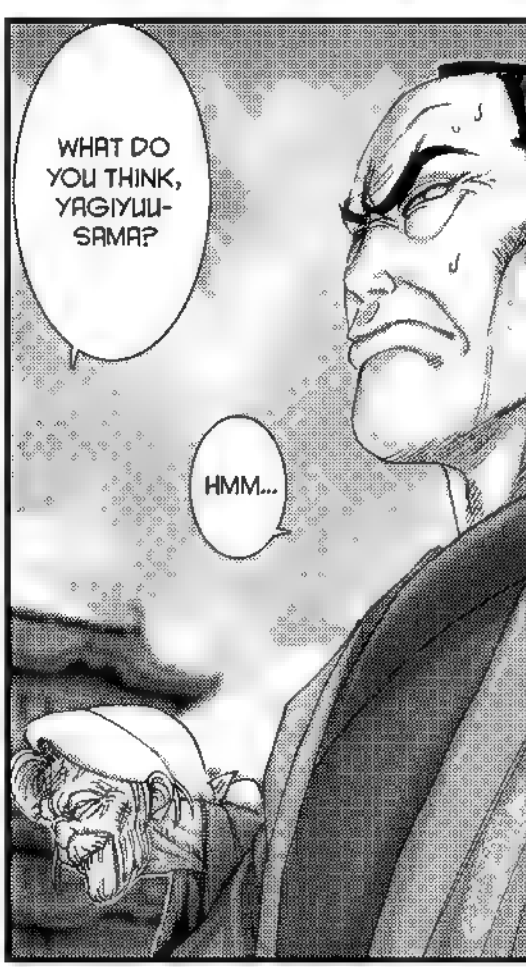
FLICK
GRIN
KA-PWAH
FWAH
CRACK
CRACK

URRM
THIS IS MADE FROM THE FINE BLACK HAIRS OF A HUMAN WOMAN... AND COATED WITH A SECRET OIL RENDERED FROM A WILD BEAST'S BLUBBER.
NOTHING ELSE CUTS QUITE LIKE IT, OLD MAN.

THUD
AH, YASHAMARU'S NINJA TECHNIQUE IS TRULY AMAZING.

HEH...
HEH HEH HEH.


SWIP
SWIP


WHAT DO YOU THINK, YAGIYUU-SAMA?
HMM...

WHINNN

...ALL TIED UP AND SPRAWLED OUT ON THE GROUND.
LOOK AT THAT KOUGA FOOL...
QUITE A PATHETIC SIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK, DANJOU-DONO?
IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO CLAIM VICTORY, OGEN.

カッ
あ
あ
あ
ゴゴゴ
!

SWISH
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
SPLAT
FONK
UH...
URR...
HEH HEH. SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI'S PHLEGM IS JUST LIKE GLUE...
...ONLY A THOUSAND YEN STICKER!
THUD

UGH...
YOUR TECHNIQUE DOESN'T WORK SO WELL WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE TIED UP, DOES IT?
HA HA HA.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, YASHAMARU?

YOU'RE DEAD...
SHOJGEN.
HEH HEH...

FWOOSH
PLOINK
PLOINK

AND OGEN, THE LEADER OF THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT.
THAT'S DANJOU KOUGA, THE LEADER OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.
WHAT INTEREST COULD IEYASU-SAMA HAVE IN THIS SORDID BUNCH?
...BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I CAN SEE WHY MY PREDECESSOR FORCED THEM TO SIGN A TRUCE...
WHAT AN EVIL BUNCH...

NINJA?
SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER.
PRIEST TENKAI NANKOU
GUARDIAN OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN
RIGHT NOW, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN...
...IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH YOUR OLDEST SON TAKECHIO'S SECT ON ONE SIDE, AND YOUR YOUNGEST SON KUNICHIYO'S SECT ON THE OTHER.
EVEN THE SERVANTS HAVE JOINED THE FIGHT.
...THAT WE USE NINJA TO DECIDE WHO WILL BECOME THE THIRD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING, HIGH PRIEST...
...REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT WE DEFEAT THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.
IF WE DON'T STOP THIS INFIGHTING, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN WILL BE DOOMED TO A PATH OF DESTRUCTION...

I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ON THIS DILEMMA.
WE TRIED TO SOLVE THIS MATTER USING LOGIC, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THAT.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SEEK YOUR GUIDANCE, HIGH PRIEST TENKAI-DONO.
I UNDER-STAND THAT.
AND WE FARED NO BETTER WHEN WE USED A PSYCHO-LOGICAL APPROACH.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT A FITTING WAY FOR A MILITARY FAMILY SUCH AS THE TOKUGAWA CLAN TO SETTLE THIS
...WOULD BE FOR THE TWO SIDES TO HOLD A BATTLE OF TEN AGAINST TEN.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE THE LIVES OF SO MANY TOKUGAWA SAMURAI.
PRECISELY. IF WE USE NINJA...
WE WON'T SUFFER A SINGLE SCRATCH.
...NINJA INSTEAD?
SO WE USE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, IEYASU-DONO?
...EVEN IF IT ENDS IN A BLOOD-BATH.

CALL IT OFF!
THAT'S ENOUGH.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

I'VE NEVER SEEN NINJA WITH SUCH SKILL AND TECHNIQUE.
I'D HEARD MY PREDECESSOR SPEAK OF THEM, BUT...
I'M ASHAMED OF MY IGNORANCE.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT OUR NEIGHBORING TERRITORY HELD SUCH SKILLED NINJAS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.
DANJOU KOUGA, OGEN IGA...
THAT WAS TRULY A FASCINATING SPECTACLE.
HM'M...
THANK YOU, MY LORD
YES, MY LORD.

...TO DETERMINE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.
...IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST YOUR SKILLS AS NINJA IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH...
AND NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK...

There may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

IF WE CAN JUST GET THAT OUT OF THE WAY--
BUT FIRST, THERE'S THE LITTLE MATTER OF NULLIFYING THE TRUCE WE SIGNED WITH THE FORMER HANZO HATTORI-SAMA.
IF THAT IS THE WISH OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, THEN I WILL GLADLY ACCEDE.
WE'VE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS.

WELL SAID, HANZO.
AS YOU WISH.
...ON THESE TWO SCROLLS.
WELL THEN, JUST WRITE THE NAMES OF TEN NINJAS FROM EACH CLAN...
WHEN THE DUST SETTLES AND THE KILLING IS OVER...
...THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL DELIVER THIS SCROLL...
THE KUNICHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE KOUGA CLAN...
AS OF TODAY...
THIS BATTLE WILL DECIDE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.
...AND THE TAKECHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE IGA CLAN.

...AND RULE FOR 1000 YEARS!

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

KOUGA
TOKI PASS
THE BORDER BETWEEN
OBORO
土岐峠にて
KOUGA
KOUGA-MANJIDAN SECT

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
OBORO
ASH
TSUBAKIGAOKA
SECT
OBORO-DONO.
AH!

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
EVER SINCE MY GRANDMOTHER AND THE OTHERS GOT CALLED AWAY TO SUNPU, I CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT THEM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHAT'S WRONG, OBORO-DONO?

THE HATRED BETWEEN OUR TWO CLANS IS A THING OF THE PAST.
THE LETTER FROM HANZO-DONO JUST SAID THAT THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DISPLAY OF OUR SKILLS.
DON'T WORRY, OWORO-DONO!
AS LONG AS THE PREVIOUS HANZO HATTORI'S "KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE" IS IN EFFECT...
THERE'S NO WAY OUR TWO CLANS WILL EVER FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER.
I BET THE REASON THEY CALLED ON US...

THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME. HE SET OUT FOR SUNPU AS WELL.

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
I GET SO WORRIED... I CAN'T HELP IT.

...WAS THAT HANZO-DONO HEARD THE RUMORS OF OUR ENGAGEMENT...
...AND WANTED TO BRING THE TWO CLANS TOGETHER...
...SO THAT HE COULD OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE IT.

BUT I DON'T CARE. I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

OGEN WOULDN'T HAVE LET ME HAVE YOUR HAND SO EASILY.
BESIDES, IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A KLUTZ...
.....

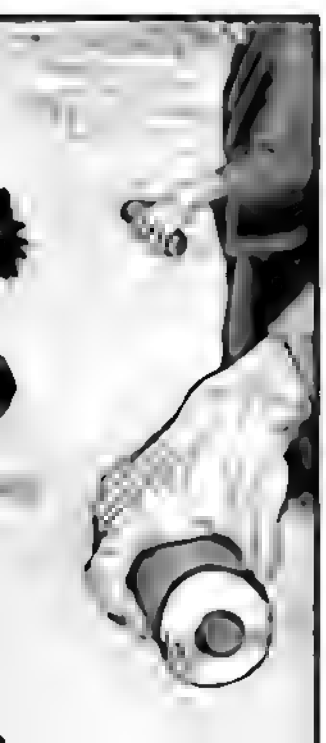
I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BORN INTO A NINJA FAMILY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT NINJA TECHNIQUE, NOT TO MENTION SWORD FIGHTING.

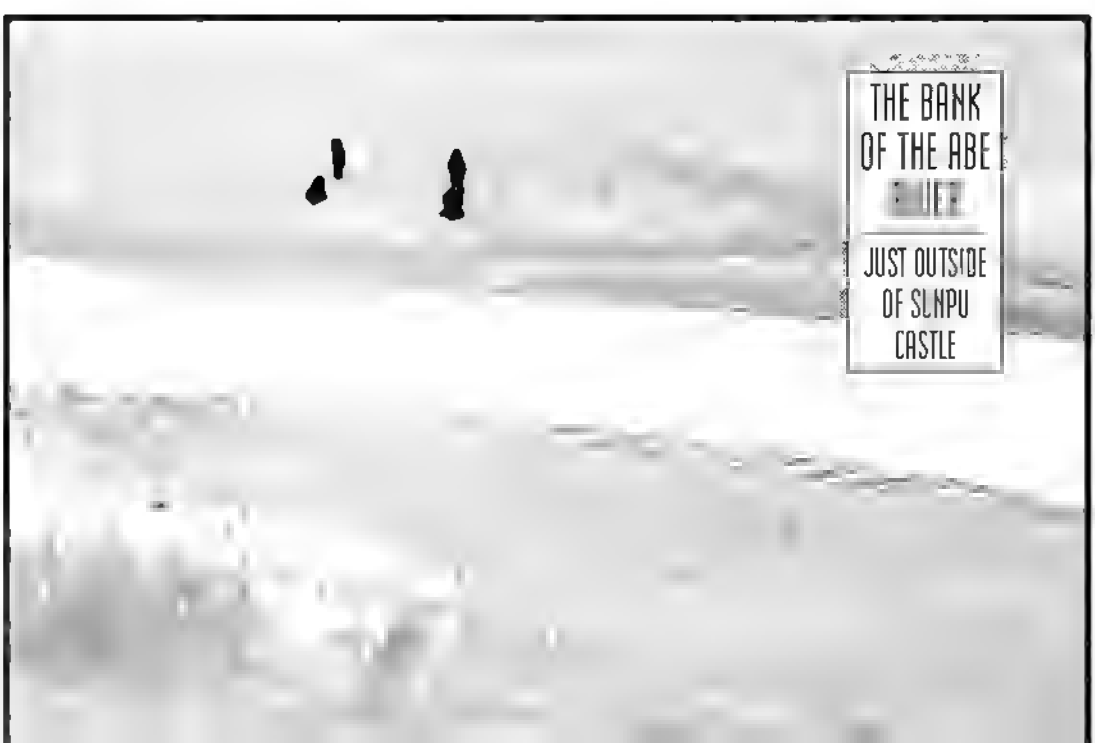
I WISH MY GRANDFATHER AND OGEN...

...WOULD HURRY UP AND SET A DATE FOR OUR CEREMONY.

YES...

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY TO COME.





THIS IS FOR THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.
AND THIS ONE IS FOR THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE
THINGS HAVE TAKEN A STRANGE TURN,

THE TWO OF THEM ARE PROBABLY TOGETHER SOMEWHERE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
POOR DEARS...I SUPPOSE IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE.
...WAS ABOUT TO BRING OUR CLANS TOGETHER...
JUST WHEN THE ENGAGE-MENT BETWEEN MY GRANDDAUGHTER AND YOUR GRANDSON...
...WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.
I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH OGEN OF IGA.
YOU AND I WERE JUST LIKE THEM ONCE...
IT'S POINTLESS TO BRING THAT UP NOW.
AFTER ALL, HOW COULD WE GO AGAINST A 400-YEAR FAMILY RIVALRY?
GOD'S WILL CAN BE CRUEL.
I SUPPOSE IT WAS FATE

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SKILLED THE TEN IGA-TSUBAGAKURE NINJA ARE, DO YOU?
HEH HEH. DANJOU-DONO...
ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW HIGHLY SKILLED THE TEN KOUGA-MANJIDANI NINJA ARE?
BY THE WAY, OGEN
TEN?
DON'T YOU MEAN NINE, OGEN?

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, OGEN.
IT'S A POISONED NEEDLE.
AH...
UGH...

OGEN OBORO
YASHA
...DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN I SLID THIS OUT OF HIS KIMONO.
LOOK! THAT FOOL YASHAMARU

THIS IS THE END, OGEN.
GRR...

GYA!
GYAAAAAA!
Ahhh!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS...
WHEN TWO CLANS GO TO WAR, OGEN.

AH!
O-

THUD
AGAIN
HEH
HEH HEH
HEH
KOUGA
DANJOU KOUGA
KUKE KOUGA
HIMUSHI
ACHI

END OF KILL
NUMBER 1

OKAY!
I'LL!
HEY,
SOMEONE
THE RAIN HAS
HURRY, WE CAN MAKE
IT BACK TO
BEFORE

KILL NUMBER 2
[9 VS 9]

ばさっ

SQUAWK
FLUTTER
HYUU
TURNS OUT IT WAS CARRYING A SCROLL.
PHEW... I WAS WONDERING WHAT THE HELL THAT HAWK WAS UP TO...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
JOUSUKE UDONO
KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

LET'S SEE...
FLIP
FLIP
WHO'S THERE?
AHH!
CRACK

WHY DON'T YOU HAND THAT OVER TO ME, JOUSUKE UDONO?
TSUBAGAKURE SECT

THAT WAS DOPE-SOUNDING HAWK.
A KOUGA BASTARD LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO TAKE THAT SCROLL.

HA!
WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T OLD MAN ROUSHI OF THE IGA CLAN.
THAT'S JOUSUKE!

JOUSUKE!
WELL THEN, THAT MUST MEAN THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM SUNPU... I WONDER WHAT IT SAYS.
HMM...
FLIP
WE'RE ALL TRYING TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND US.
QWINK
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS, JOUSUKE.
I KNOW OUR CLANS ARE SWORN ENEMIES, ROUSAI...
BUT WE'RE HELD DOWN BY THE HATTORI TRUCE...
...AND GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA ARE ABOUT TO BE WED...
FLIP
FLIP
IT'S MERELY A FRIENDLY LITTLE NINJA COMPETITION.
HMMPH!
WHOOSH
I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT WE CAN'T START KILLING EACH OTHER JUST WHEN GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.
IN OTHER WORDS... THIS IS JUST A GAME...
A MATCH OF WITS... BETWEEN THE KOUGA AND THE IGA CLAN.

SMACK

HYA!

WHACK

AHHHH!

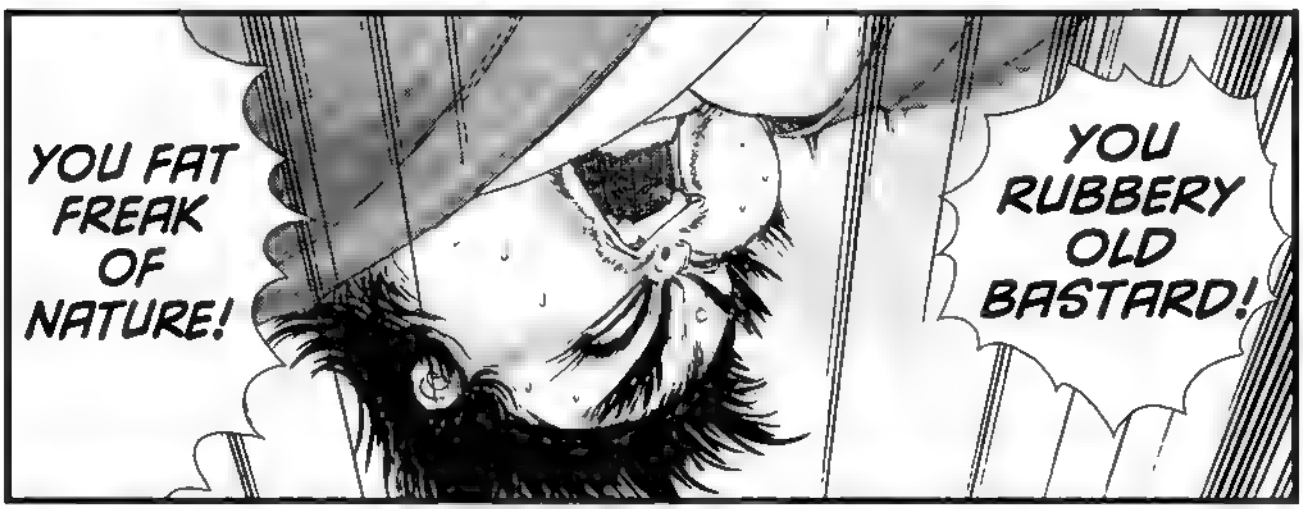
AHHHH!

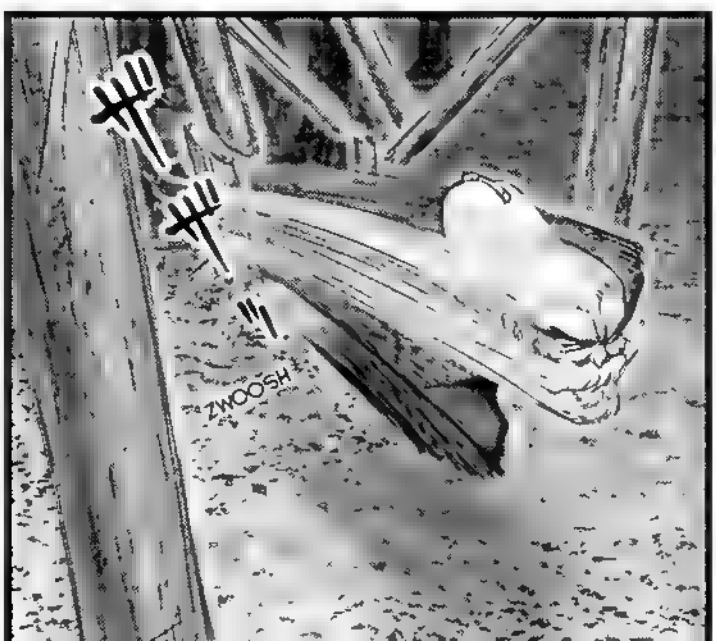
WHOA!

THE VERY IDEA OF THE IGA AND THE KOUGA MAKING PEACE DISGUSTS ME!
EVEN "FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITIONS" END IN DEATH SOMETIMES, JOUSUKE.
HYA!

BOINK
GRRR
FWOOSH
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
THAT FAT FREAK!
HAHHH... THE FLOATING BALL TECHNIQUE?

UWAHHH!
FWOOSH


YOU FAT FREAK OF NATURE!
YOU RUBBERY OLD BASTARD!


ZWOOSH

WHOOSH!

ONEE-SAN

AKEGINU
IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT
OH! HELLO

YOU'RE RATHER LATE, OBORO-SAMA.
WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.
I TOLD YOU THAT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME AS LONG AS I'M WITH GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

UNTIL OGEN-SAMA COMES BACK FROM SUNPU, YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, OBORO-SAMA.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
IT'S MY FAULT.
I APOLOGIZE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
?

WHOOSH
!?
!
AOUGH!
OMG!
KOF

AH!
AHH!
AHH!
OOF!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, JOUSUKE?
OUCH, OUCH OUCH OUCH!

I...
I WASN'T STARING...
GE-GENNNOSUKE-SAMA... PLEASE...
...TELL OBORO-SAMA TO STOP STARING AT ME!
I KNOW YOU WEREN'T.
OBORO-DONO WAS BORN...
IT'S NOT A NINJA TECHNIQUE OR A TRICK...
...WITH THOSE DEVASTATING EYES.

THE SLIGHTEST GLANCE FROM THOSE MYSTERIOUS EYES...
...CAN RENDER THE MOST POWERFUL NINJA HELPLESS.

!
ガシッ

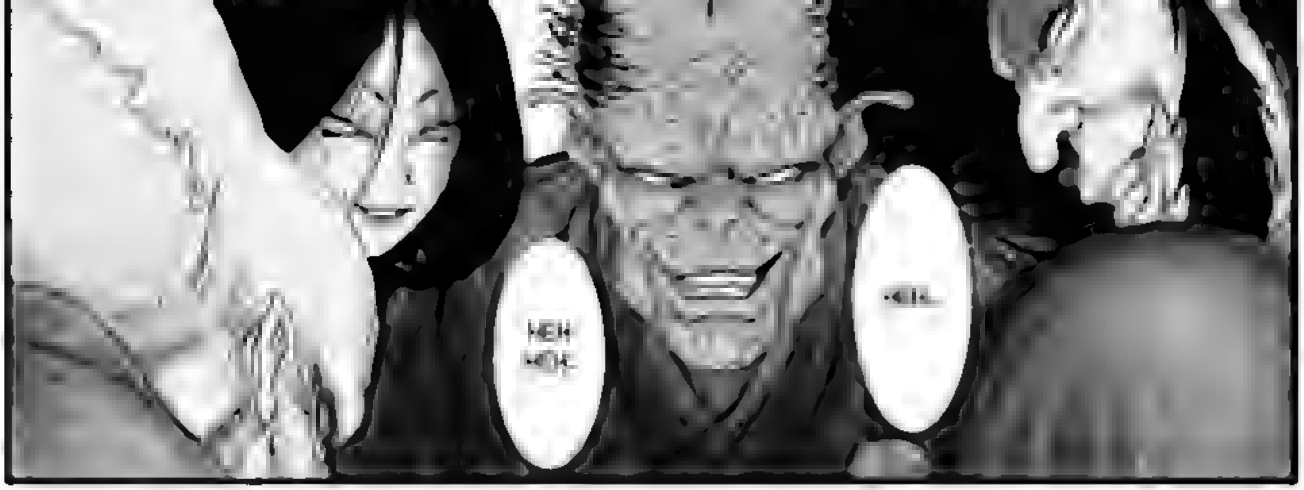
THAT SCROLL WAS SENT BY OGEN-SAMA!
GET THE SCROLL THAT JOUSUKE HAS HIDDEN IN HIS KIMONO!

AKEGINU!
ハアハアハア

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, JOUSUKE?
STARING
ぎろっ
STEP
スタ
スタ
YOU FOOL!
I-I'M SORRY.
SMACK
JUST A FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITION... THAT'S ALL...
WELL...ROUSAI-DONO AND I WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE CONTEST TO SEE WHO GETS THE SCROLL...
WAIT!
GO AHEAD, OBORO-DONO. TAKE A LOOK AT IT.
OUCH, OUCH.

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, JINGOROU?
YOU CAN'T OPEN THAT SCROLL IN FRONT OF GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
...UNTIL SHE RETURNS.
IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT IT FROM KOUGA EYES...
THAT'S A SECRET SCROLL SENT BY OGEN-SAMA.
ALLOW ME TO EXCUSE MYSELF.
HE'S RIGHT.

FWICK
PLOINK
DAMN IT! YOU IDIOT, JINGOROU!
AH, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
OUR CLANS HAVE BEEN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS. YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR THEIR SECRECY.
.....


HEH HEH

JINGOROU! WHAT DID MY GRAND-MOTHER SAY?

ARIGATOU

OGEN-SAMA AND DAIJOU-SAMA ARE JUST GOING TO TAKE IN SOME OF EDO'S SIGHTS BEFORE THEY RETURN HOME.
THE KOUGA AND THE IGA HAVE MADE PEACE.
DON'T WORRY, OBORO-SAMA!

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS!
WELL!

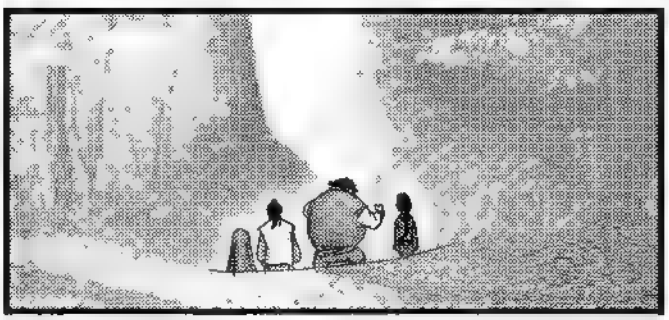
I HAD TO HONOR MY DUTY AS A NINJA.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MY POOR MANNERS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA, BUT...
HMM...
. . . .
WHAT A GREAT IDEA, NENKI!
HEH...WELL, GEN-NOSUKE-SAMA...
WHY DON'T YOU RELAX AND STAY IN IGA FOR A WHILE?
DON'T WORRY. CONSIDER IT FORGOTTEN.
...OKAY, I'LL GO TO IGA.
PLEASE.
PLEASE.
PLEASE COME WITH US TO IGA, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

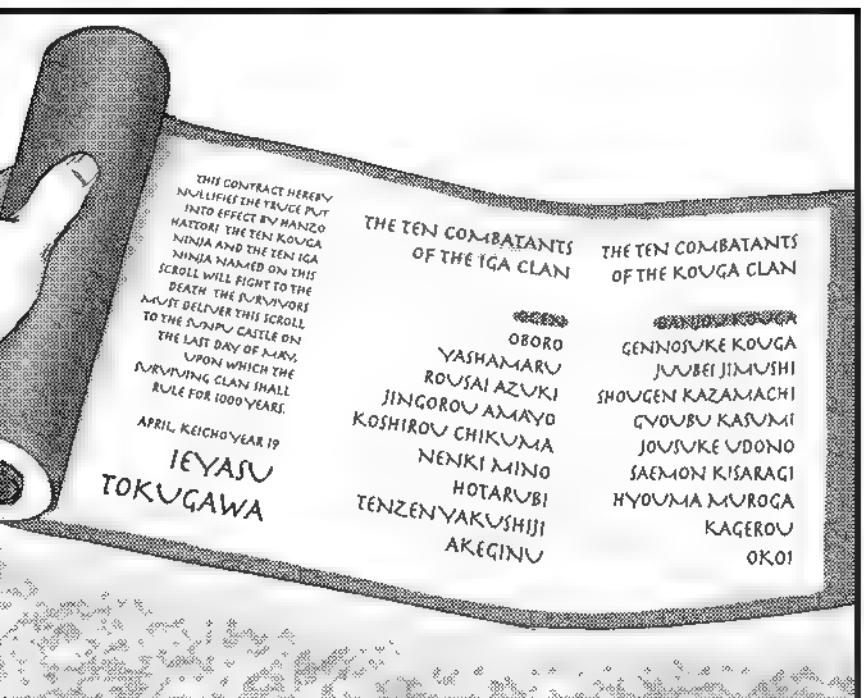
SQUEEZE
す？
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
WA-WAIT A MINUTE, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!
PLEASE.
WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG TOO, UDONO-SAMA?
HEH... WELL...
OKAY THEN, HEH.

YOU LOOK AFTER THEM, AKEGINU.
WE'RE GOING TO PICK SOME MOUNTAIN HERBS BEFORE WE HEAD BACK.

NENKI, YOU HURRY ALONG AND CALL TENZEN-SAMA.
I WILL.

LEAVE IT TO ME, JINGOROU-SAMA.
GRIN




THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.
APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19
IEYASU TOKUGAWA
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT
.....
OGEN-SAMA... IS DEAD.

AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT...

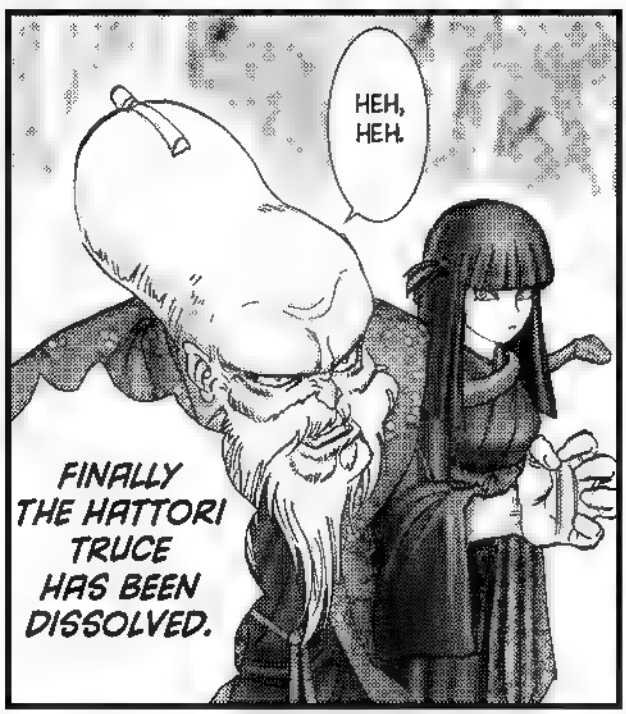
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT
.....

DANJOU KOUGA IS DEAD AS WELL.

...THE KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE.
THAT'S THE END OF...
HEH, HEH, HEH.

えっほ
DA-TWO-
えっほ
DA-TWO-
えっほ
えっほ

THAT IS A BAD OMEN
AN OMINOUS STAR... HAS BEEN SET INTO MOTION.
END OF KILL NUMBER 2


HEH, HEH.
FINALLY THE HATTORI TRUCE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.

THEY FELL RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!
WE LURED GENNOSUKE KOUGA AND JOUSUKE UDONO TO IGA.

SOON THOSE VILE KOUGA RATS...
SCHWING
...WILL KNOW THE TRUE POWER OF THE IGA CLAN!

KILL NUMBER 3

[9 VS 9 (PART 2)]

TENZEN-SAMA...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YASHAMARU-DONO?
HMM...IF YASHAMARU LEFT SUNPU ALIVE ALONG WITH OGEN'S HAWK...
HE SHOULD MAKE IT HERE LATE THIS EVENING OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.
YASHAMARU ISN'T THE ONLY ONE I'M CONCERNED ABOUT. WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI? HE WENT TO SUNPU ALONG WITH DANJOU KOUGA.
YES.
.....

THEN WE MUST HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN FIRST...
...AND TAKE THE SCROLL!
DANJOU MUST HAVE PASSED A SCROLL JUST LIKE THIS ALONG TO SHOUGEN.
WHY?
YOU GO BACK TO IGA.
AMAYO...
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE MUST KILL SHOUGEN!
IF SHE FINDS OUT WHAT'S GOING ON... THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.
BECAUSE OF OBORO-SAMA...

DON'T DO ANY-THING UNTIL WE COME BACK WITH SHOUGEN'S HEAD.

UNDER-STAND?

IF YOU SHOULD FAIL, WE WOULD LOSE OUR ADVANTAGE.

OKAY.

.....

...MUST DIE.

FIRST, SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI...

THEY HOLD A STRANGE POWER...

HE'S A FEARSOME OPPONENT.

HIS EYES...

I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

IF OBORO-SAMA SEES THIS SCROLL...

SHE'LL TELL GENNOSUKE EVERYTHING.

IF I GET THE CHANCE, MAY I SLAY HIM?

...GEN-NOSUKE.

YOU'D BETTER NOT...

...UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, JINGOROU.

THAT EVE-NING.
ONE, TWO...
ONE, TWO...

.....

ONE, TWO...
ONE, TWO...

WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
IT BELONGS TO JUUBEI JIMUSHI OF THE KOUGA CLAN.

WHAT'S WRONG?
I KNOW THAT CARRIAGE...

WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING HERE?
BUT...

JIMUSHI IS ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA LISTED ON THE SCROLL!
WHO CARES WHAT HE'S DOING HERE?
SHWING
SHWING
HE'S MINE!
HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY!
!
GOT IT!
SHWING
KILL ONLY THE CARRIAGE HOLDERS.
I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR JIMUSHI!
KOSHIROU...

ONE.
T-P

YOU'RE WITH OGEN'S CLAN, ARE YOU?
REFUSE?

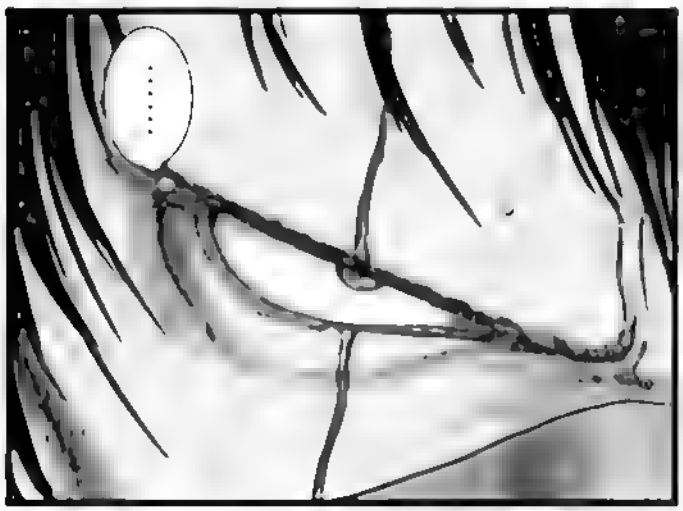
JUUBEI JIMUSHI/ WE ARE FROM IGA CLAN.
STEP OUTSIDE/ WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

HYA!

YOU RUINED MY FAVORITE CARRIAGE.
YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
JUUBEI
SECT
ME? WHERE THE HELL...
...ARE YOU AND YOUR PACK HEADING?
...JUUBEI?
WHERE WERE YOU HEADING...
JUUBEI JIMUSHI...

ACCORDING TO MY READING OF THE STARS, ILL FORTUNE HAS FALLEN UPON DANJOU-SAMA.
OH? YOU TOO?

WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND WAITING FOR HER...SO HERE WE ARE.
WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OGEN-SAMA. SHE HASN'T RETURNED FROM SUNPU.


.....

READING THE STARS, EH?
IS THAT THE EXTENT OF YOUR NINJA TECHNIQUE?

I'LL STAY BEHIND.
I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR OUR FRIEND HERE.

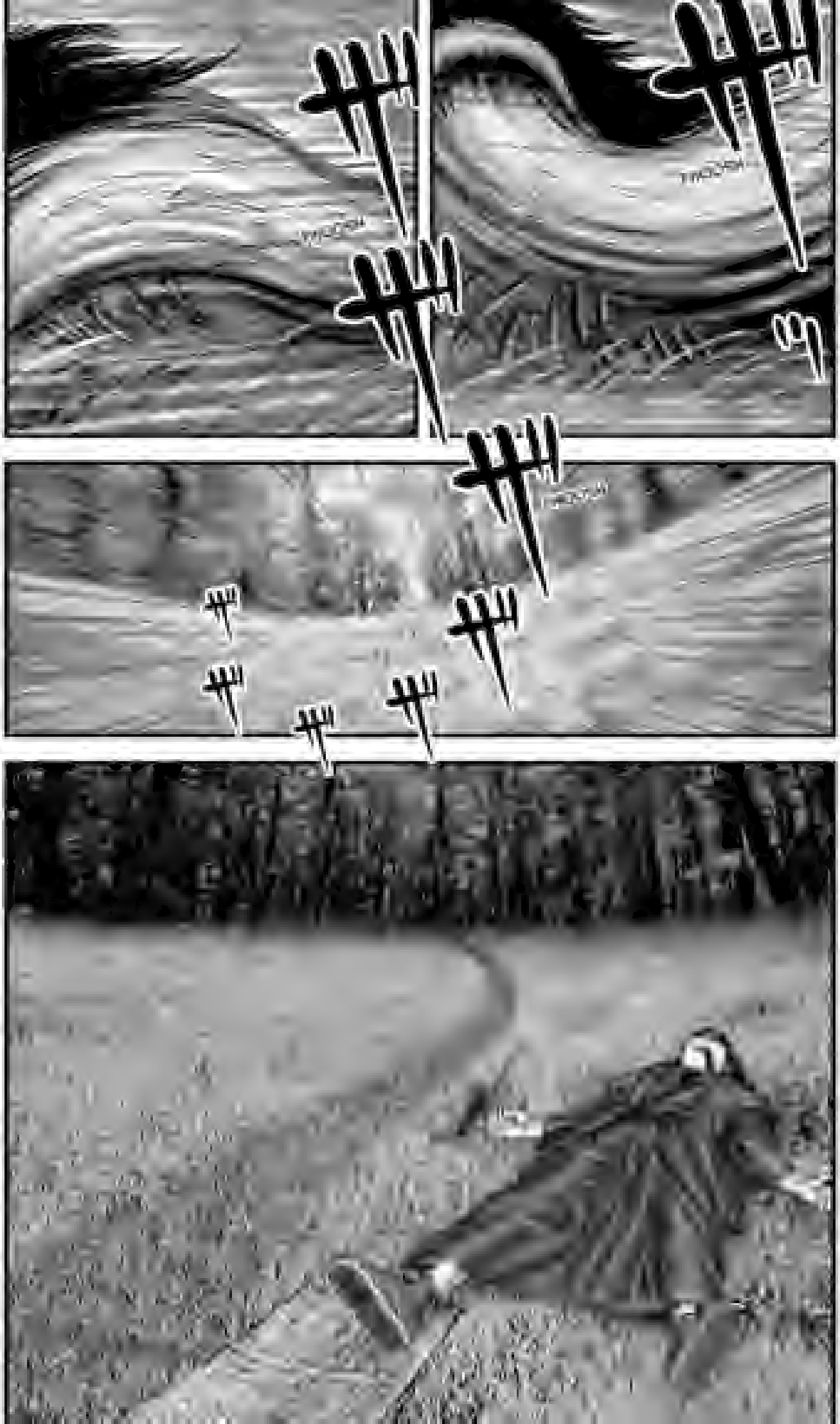
ROUSAI, YOU GO ON AHEAD AND HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

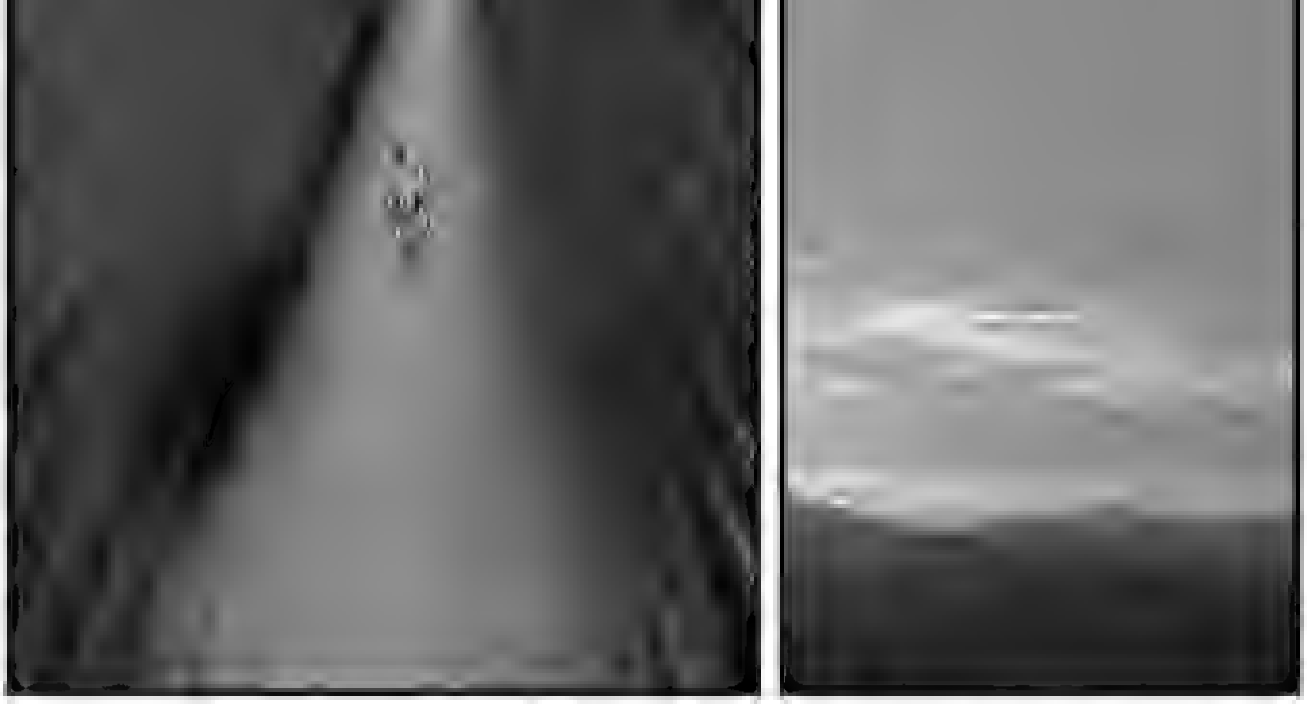
OKAY.
WE DON'T WANT TO GET SIDE-TRACKED WITH JIMUSHI WHILE SHOUGEN GETS AWAY.

WELL, JUUBEI...
I'M PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THE KOUGA CLAN...
...BUT THERE ARE STILL A FEW KOUGA NINJA THAT I DON'T KNOW, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.
CLINK
TELL ME!
WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUES DO THE TEN NINJA OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT USE?
TELL ME, OR I'LL CHOP OFF YOUR HEAD!
YOUR STAR...
...PREDICTS ILL FORTUNE TOO!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HA!
HA, HA, HA, HA!

IF MY ENEMIES KNEW ABOUT MY HIDDEN WEAPON, I'D BE DONE FOR, BUT...
BY THE TIME THEY SEE IT, THEY'RE ALREADY HISTORY.

I DON'T GET IT.
WHAT'D THOSE IGA BASTARDS UP TO?
NOW I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED...
...ABOUT SHOUGEN AND DANJOU-SAN!





ガチ

HYAA!
!
UH?

WHA-!
UH?

END OF KILL NUMBER 3

風待将軍

孫利都

なれかけんぶ

ゆゆしきあるじ

手練りうど

のいのちをうばいとるまでのことはしたくない

まずこころのよわみにつけこんで

ゆうわくし

ひきいれ

ひとりめ

ふたりめ

ころす

ころす

ころす

YOU'RE FROM THE IGA CLAN?

...THE IGA VS KOUGA BATTLE SCROLL!

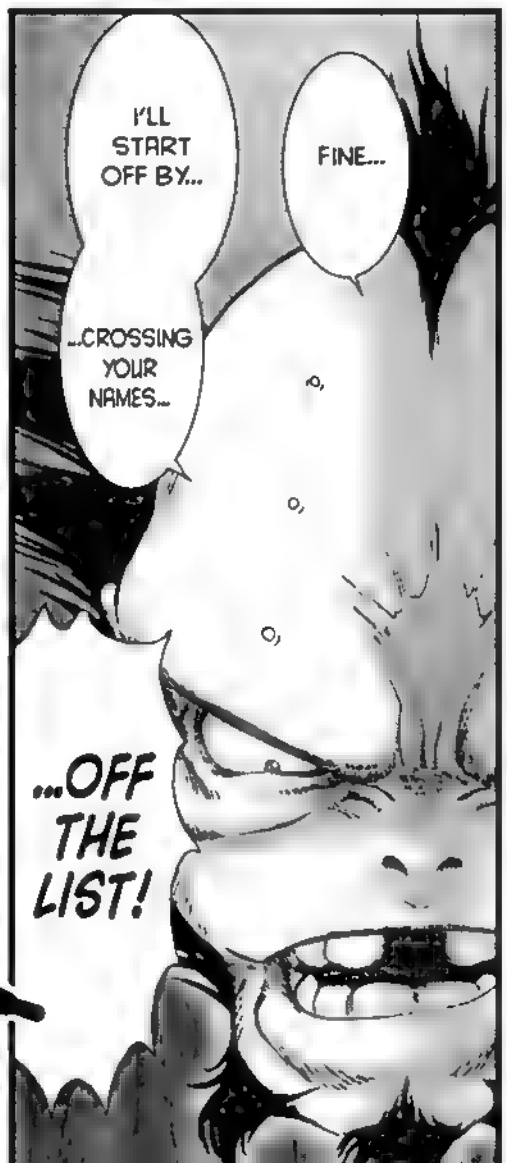
HAND OVER.

KILL NUMBER 4

[IGA VS KOUGA PART 3]

HUH?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SCROLL?
HMMPH...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

FWOOSH
SHUT UP, SHOUGEN!


FINE...
I'LL START OFF BY...
...CROSSING YOUR NAMES...
...OFF THE LIST!

GRRR
WHA-
!

AHH!
HRRMPH
HRRMPH
HRRMPH
!
AHH!

HEH, HEH, HEH...

IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THIS TOWN, LIKE A BUG!

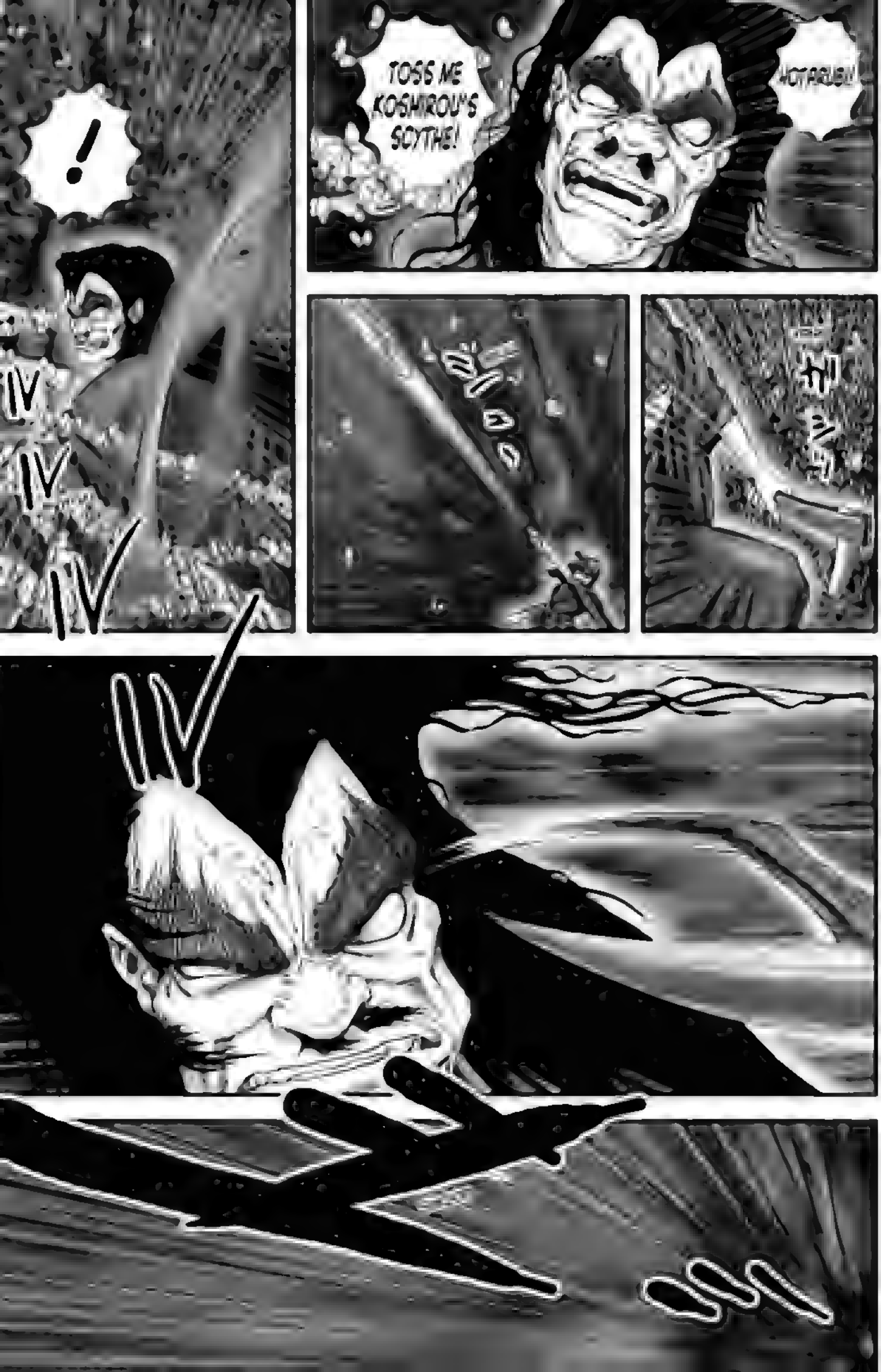
HEHEH

LET'S SEE...
GRRR
I THINK I'LL START...
...WITH THE OLDEST.

ROAR
IT'S YOUR TURN!
THAT'S RIGHT...
AHHHH!
WAHHH!
.....
HEH, HEH, HEH. I'M GONNA...
...LET YOU CHOOSE HOW I KILL YOU.
I COULD TEAR OUT YOUR EYES...
...OR I COULD JUST SLIT YOUR THROAT...
GRRRIP
GO AHEAD...
PICK ONE, ROUSAI!
A BUTTER-FLY?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
HUH?
FLUTTER

WHOA!
AHH!
AHHHHH!

HYAA!
!


!
TOSS ME KOSHIROU'S SCYTHE!
HOT BLUE!

XII
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ

7"
I CAN CONTROL MY BODY HAIR AS EASILY AS I CAN MOVE MY ARMS AND LEGS
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, YOU KOUGA BASTARD!

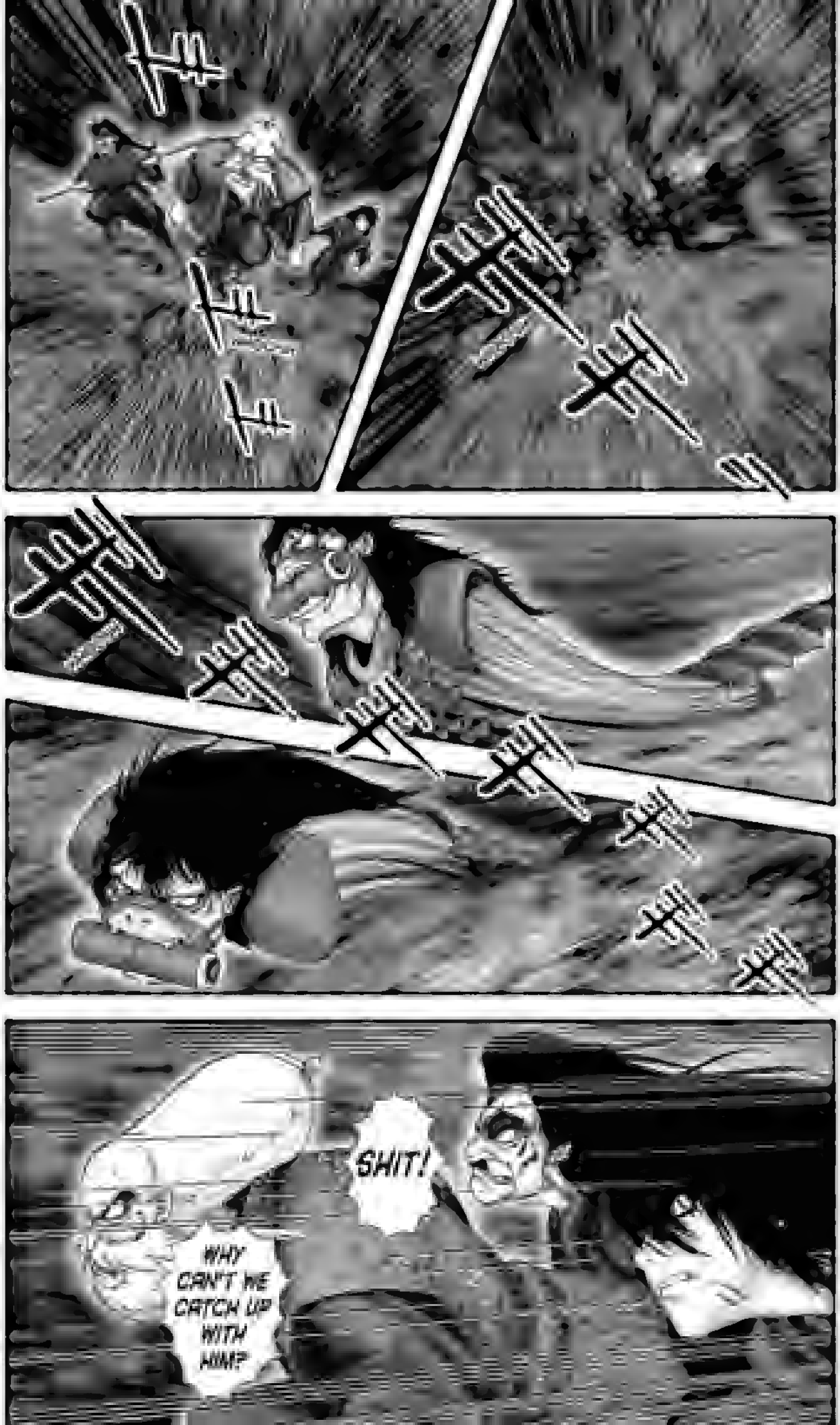
HE'S STILL TRYING TO FIGHT BACK!
URR!

AH!
HUH?
IS THAT...?
THA--
JUUBEI...
JIMUSHI!

SHIT!
THAT LITTLE BASTARD!

IS YAMAMOTO-DONO OKAY?
ANSWER ME, SHOUGEN.

UWAHH!


SHIT!
WHY CAN'T WE CATCH UP WITH HIM?

THEIR LEGS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY SNAKE-LIKE SLITHER.
FOOLS!
HUH?

...THE SPEAR YOU HAVE HIDDEN IN YOUR THROAT, NOW WILL YOU?

OTHER-WISE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE...

IT—

CAN'T BE...

IT—

AHHH!

AHHH!

YOU'D BETTER GET THAT SCROLL...

— OUT OF YOUR MOUTH

I NEVER FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE!

AH!
TENZEN-SAMA!

WHAT HAPPENED TO JUUBEI?
WHERE'S JIMUSHI?

I JUST TOOK CARE OF HIM.
THAT MISERABLE PEST.

HEY, HOTARUBI.

WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN?

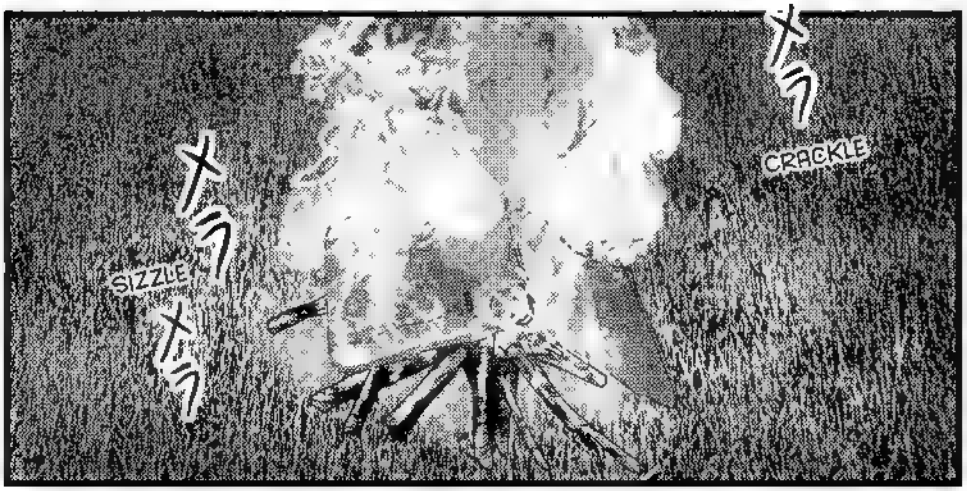
SHOUGEN...
...IS NO MORE.

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN
OGEN
OBORO
YAIHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU
DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KARUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

IT'S THE SAME THING.

HMMPH.

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN
OBORO
YAIHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KARUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
IEYASU TOKUGAWA



THIS CONTRACT HEREBY
VALLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT
NTO EFFECT BY HANZO
TTORI. THE TEN KOUGA
NJA AND THE TEN IGA
INJA NAMED ON THIS
OLL WILL FIGHT TO THE
EATH. THE SURVIVORS
DELIVER THIS SCROLL
E SUNPU CASTLE ON
E LAST DAY OF MAY,
UPON WHICH THE
VIVING CLAN SHALL
ULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

RIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU
KUGAWA

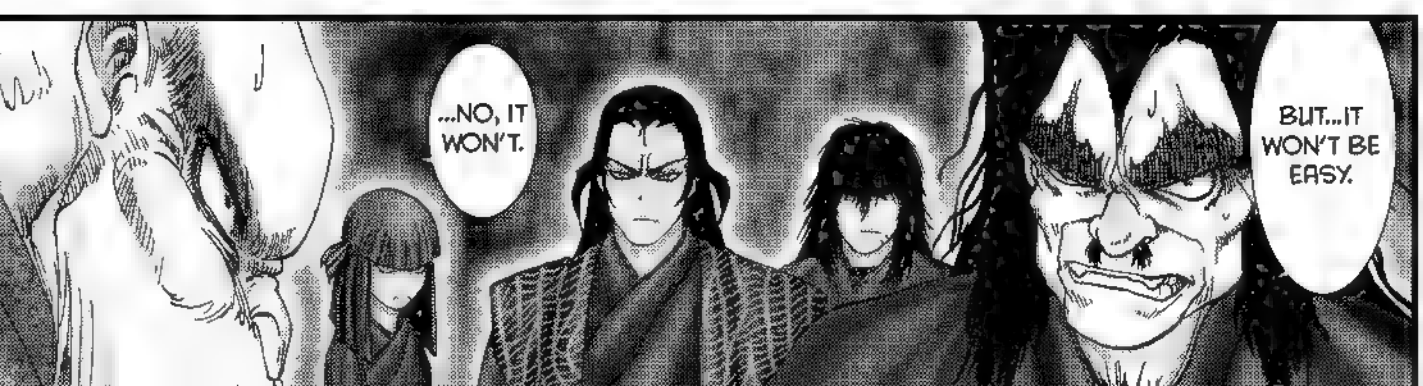
THE TEN COMBATANTS
OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

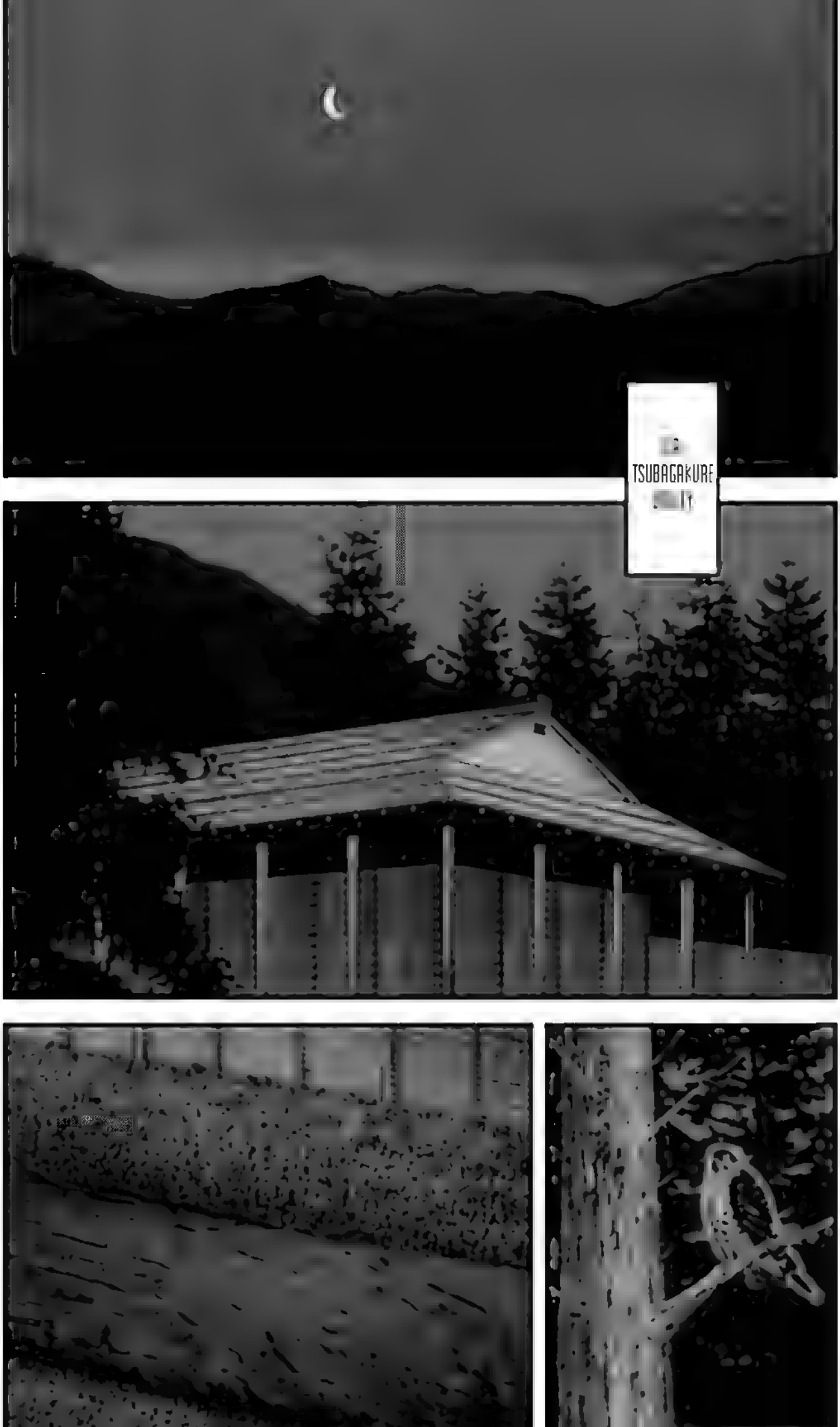
SEVEN MORE TO GO...

E TEN COMBATANTS
F THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINMUSHI
CHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI



HEH...
BUT IN THE END, ONLY ONE CLAN WILL SURVIVE...
...AND THAT WILL BE US...
...OGEN'S IGA CLAN.
END OF KILL NUMBER 4


TSUBAGAKURE

KILL NUMBER 5

WELL, REGINA-PONO...
SINCE I'M SO HIT...

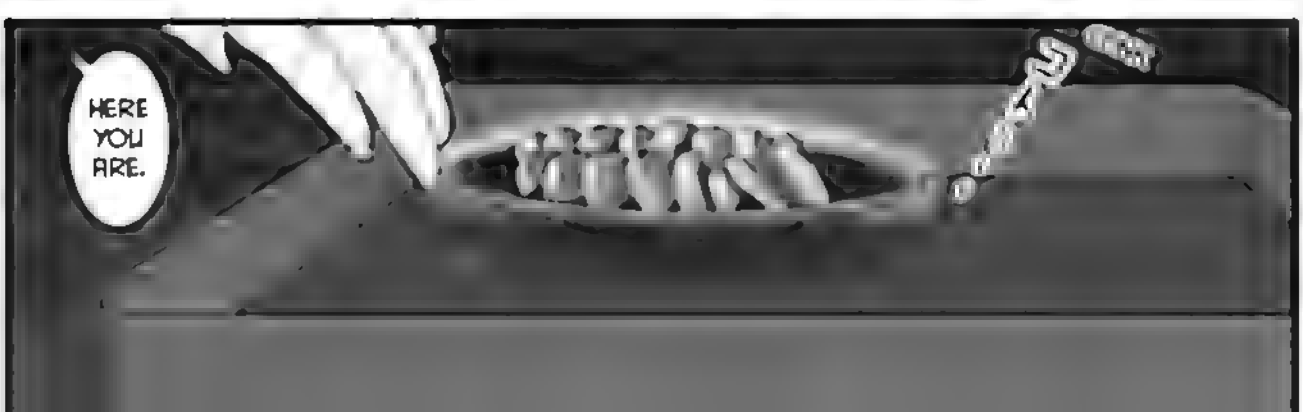
...I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SKINNY AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU FOR MY WIFE.
I THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.
HOW ABOUT IT, AKEGINU-DONO?

WHY DON'T WE GET MARRIED? WE CAN BE JUST LIKE GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA.

IF WE BECAME A COUPLE...
WE COULD HELP BRING THE IGA AND THE KOUGA TOGETHER...

WILL YOU QUIT BEING SUCH A BAD DRUNK, JOUSUKE?
CAN'T YOU TELL YOU'RE MAKING AKEGINU-DONO UNCOM-FORTABLE?
...AND END OUR LONG HISTORY OF HATRED.
RIGHT?
RIGHT?
...
AH, YES. RIGHT AWAY.
AH...
AKEGINU
WHY DON'T YOU BRING OVER SOME PICKLES FOR GENNOSUKE-SAMA?
SHOT DOWN AGAIN
DAMN

PLEASE FORGIVE HIM, OBORO-DONO.
HE'S THE CLOWN OF THE KOUGA CLAN. HE'S ALWAYS MAKING TROUBLE.
HE CERTAINLY IS...
...QUITE A CHARACTER.

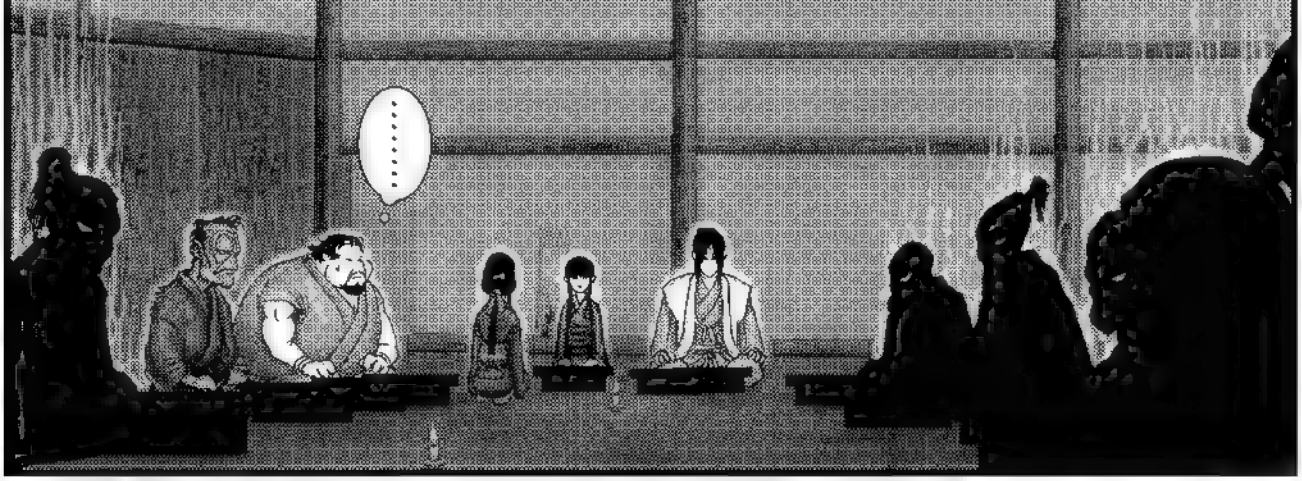

HERE YOU ARE.

THEY TASTE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OUR HOUSE PICKLES.
MMM. THESE ARE DELICIOUS.
WE ORDER OUR SALT FROM THE AKOU AREA...
...AND WE KEEP PLENTY STORED IN THE SALT SHED BEHIND THE PALACE.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SALT WE USE.
I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE CLAN THAT SURVIVED THE BITTER TENSHOU IGA WARS.
ONE MUST HAVE SALT TO FEED AN ARMY.
HEH, HEH.
WELL... PREPARATION IS THE BANE OF MISFORTUNE!

UH, HEH.
SHUT YOUR TRAP!

NO, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.
THIS PALACE, ALONG WITH THE TSUBAGAKURE VALLEY, WILL SOON BE YOURS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AKEGINU?
SAMA. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.


.....

...AND...
OUR... KOUGA-MANJIDANI CLAN...

...EVEN WHILE UNDER HANZO'S ETERNAL TRUCE.
...HAVE DESPISED EACH OTHER AND OPPOSED EACH OTHER...
...THE TWO CLANS WITH THE MOST POWERFUL AND SKILLED NINJA...
...YOUR IGA-TSUBAGAKURE CLAN....

...A FOOLISH AND RIDICULOUS MISTAKE.
I THINK THAT HAS BEEN...

.....

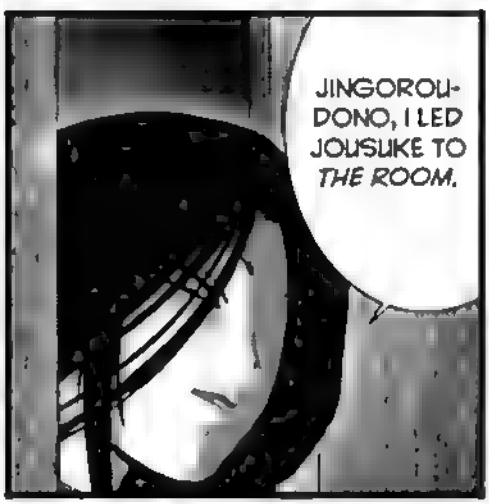
YES...
..GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

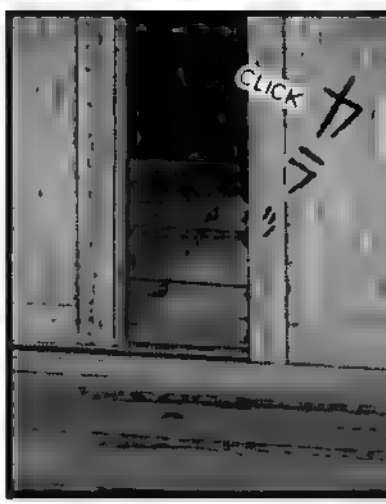
OBORO-DONO...
WHEN YOU AND I ARE JOINED TOGETHER...
WE WILL BREAK THROUGH THE CHAINS THAT HAVE IMPRISONED OUR TWO CLANS, AND...
THE BELLS OF PEACE WILL RING THROUGHOUT OUR TWO VALLEYS.

HMMPH... NOW HE'S GOT THEM ALL RILED UP...
AND HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

WHERE ARE TENZEN AND—
HEY, THAT'S RIGHT...
I DON'T SEE THE GUYS WE MET AT THE TOKI PASS. WHERE ARE THEY?
HEY, AKEGINU-DONO.
WHAT?
I'D BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE RETIRE FOR THE EVENING?
IT'S GETTING LATE.
O-OKIDO SAMA.
I WOULDN'T MIND CALLING IT A NIGHT MYSELF.
HA HA
YEAH! THE SAKE IS STARTING TO HIT ME. I'M GETTING SLEEPY.

GOOD.


JINGOROU-DONO, I LED JOUSUKE TO *THE ROOM.*


CLICK
カラ

WELL...
TENZEN AND THE OTHERS ARE PROBABLY DISPOSING OF SHOUGEN AS WE SPEAK...

...FIND OUT ABOUT THE SCROLL. IF OBORO-SAMA HEARS ABOUT IT, WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE ON OUR HANDS.
AKEGINU, DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE IN OUR CLAN...
I UNDERSTAND.

SO, AKEGINU...
WHY DON'T WE TRY TO CROSS THEM OFF THE LIST OUR-SELVES?
BUT... TENZEN-SAMA TOLD US TO WAIT.

...WELL THEN...

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...
...WE SHOULD ACT.

I'LL HANDLE JOUSUKE UDONO.

SNORT
SNORT
ZZZ
OGRE'S PRIDE AWAKEN
THIS IS A STEEL DOOR COVERED IN

JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
SO THIS TIME...
CAMOUFLAGED PRISON CAN HOLD ME?
HOW ERO...

...I'D THINK THAT...
...[illegible] DESPISES ME THIS MUCH.
DR...
DID SHE HAVE SOME OTHER REASON FOR LOCKING ME IN [illegible]?
WH-

I'D BETTER MAKE SURE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS OKAY.

I FEEL LIKE AN ASSHOLE

?

ISN'T THAT...

BUT... HOW DIDHE? THAT BIT?

?

AH!
WHO—
WHO THE HELL—?

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU, AKEGINU-DONO!
SQUEEZE
UH...
BOO!
JOUSUKE-DONO!
HOW-HOW DID YOU...
...GET OUT?
MY LONGING TO SEE YOU FORCED ME OUT.
I BROKE OUT SO THAT I COULD SLEEP BESIDE YOU, MY LOVE.
SO, AKEGINU-DONO...
AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

...JUST FOR TONIGHT?
HOW ABOUT BEING MY WIFE...
!
OH!
OUCH!

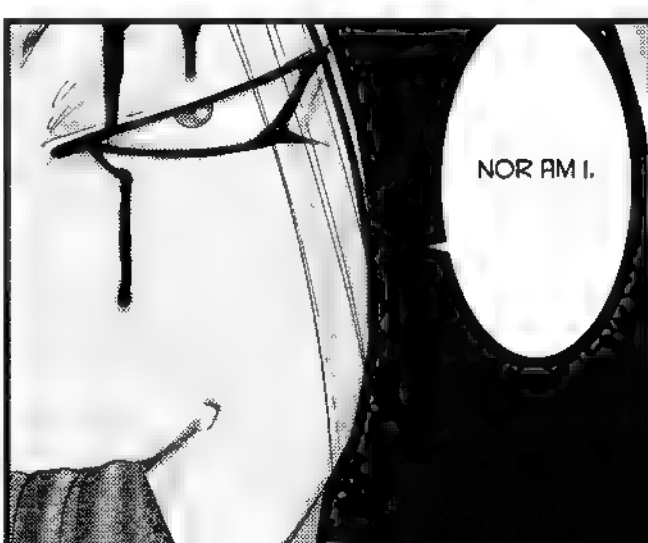
WHOA!
OOF!

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION, JOUSUKE-DONO?
IF I LOSE, I WILL BE YOUR WIFE FOR THE NIGHT...
...JUST AS YOU DESIRE. HOW ABOUT IT, JOUSUKE-DONO?

MY, MY... WHAT A PLEASANT SIGHT.

WELL, A FRIENDLY FIGHT BETWEEN TWO NINJAS SOUNDS INTERESTING, BUT...
I'M NOT GONNA PULL ANY PUNCHES JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY PLAYING, AKEGINU-DONO.

?
?
UH...


NOR AM I.

UH...
AHHHH!
TSS

AHHHH!

WELL...

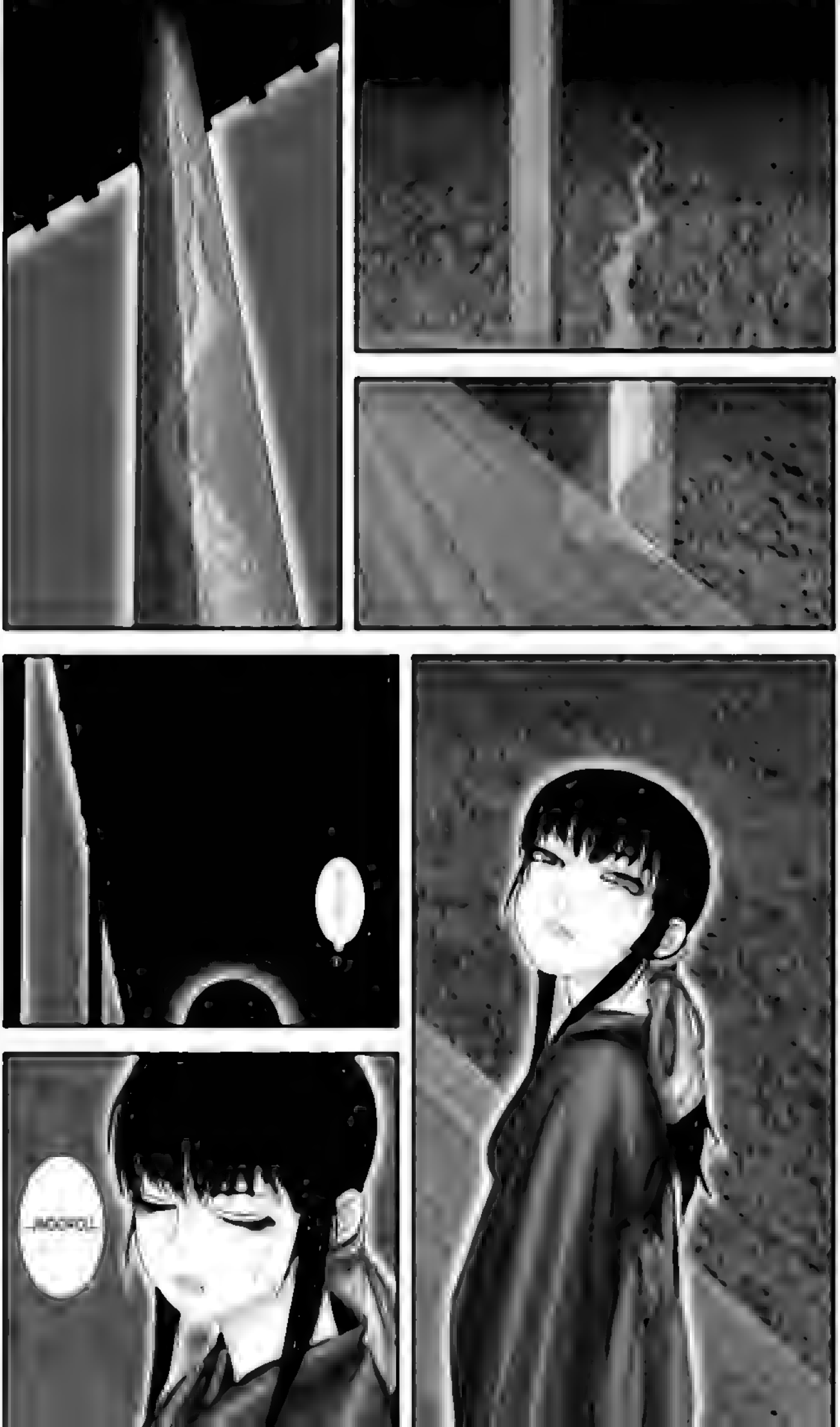
GOODNIGHT, DIRECTOR BAE.

AHHH!

AHHH!

TAPPA
TAPPA

END OF KILL NUMBER 5


...MOOHOO...

JINGOROU!

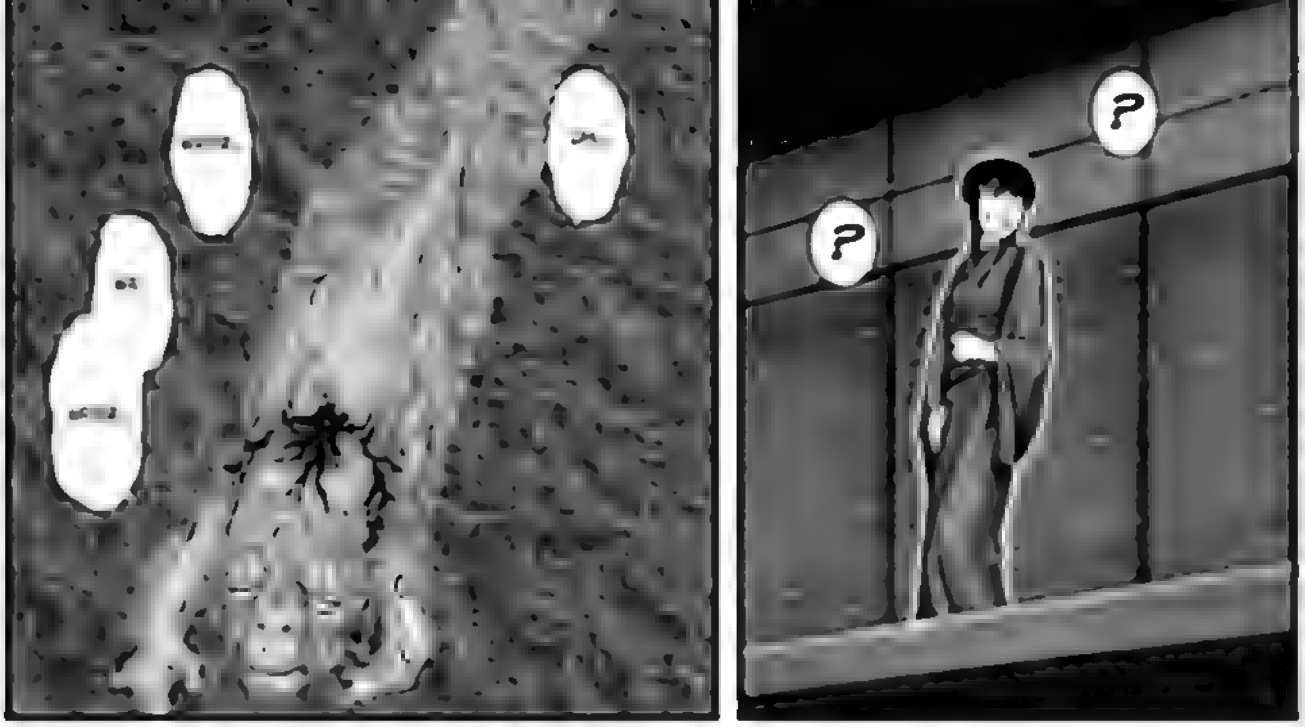
COME DOWN FROM THERE!

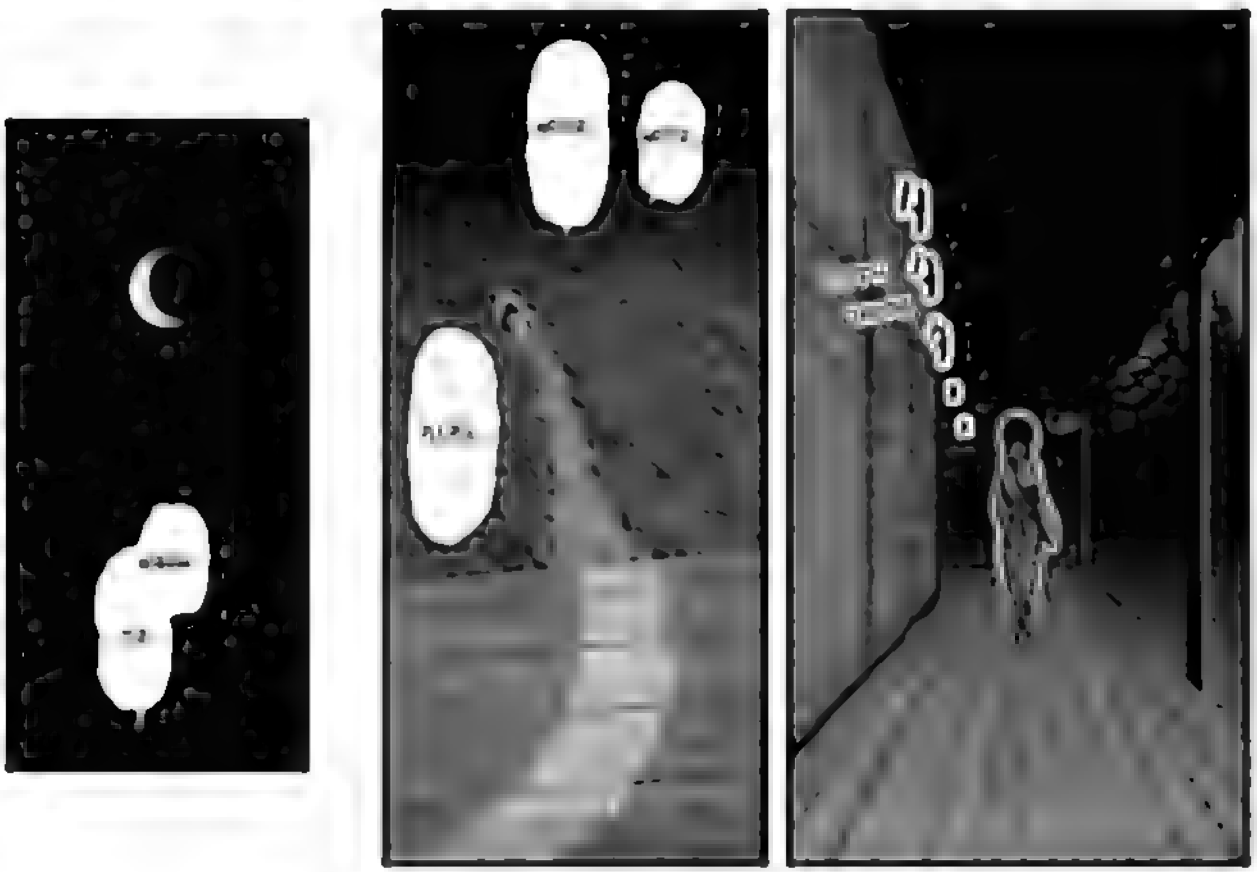
KILL NUMBER 6

[7 VS 9 (PART 2)]

YOU'RE USING YOUR SECRET TECH-NIQUE...
DON'T LOOK AT ME
DON'T—
...AND SLAY HIM.
YOU DON'T YOURSELF IN SALT AND MELT THEM.
SO YOU CAN AWAIT UP ON YOUR ENEMY.
UH...
UHH...
ANSWER ME!
...TRYING TO ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WERE YOU?
YOU WEREN'T...

I CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED, AND NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER...
THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT,
I DON'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE IN THE IGA CLAN...
IF YOU TRY TO HARM GENNOSUKE... I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO STOP YOU.
!?
AHHHH!





SHIT!
WHERE THE HELL IS PAUGHAN?
SHIT!
SHE DISAPPEARED
SHIT!
THIS BLOODY FOG IS SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING.

TIME TO CROSS JOUSUKE UDONO'S NAME OFF OF THE KOUGA LIST

AH!
HOW THE HELL...
...CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CRUEL, AKEGINU-
I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF I END UP DEAD?

IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY SWORD-STOPPING FLESH-GRAB TECHNIQUE!
I WOULD'VE BEEN DOOMED...
LOOKS LIKE I WON THIS TIME, AKEGINU-DONO.

O-OBORO-SAMA!
AKEGINU?
HOW COULD YOU ATTACK JOUSUKE-
AKEGINU?
.....
I'D PREFER IF GENNOSUKE-SAMA DIDN'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS LITTLE INCIDENT.
YES, OF COURSE.
ACTUALLY, OBORO-DONO...
I'M THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL... I RIPPED AKEGINU-DONO'S KIMONO OFF...
...AND SHE GOT A LITTLE ANGRY.

WE-WELL...
THAT'S-
...
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT, OBORO-DONO?
AKEGINU-DONO ISN'T VERY FRIENDLY.
.....
Y-YES...
GOOD NIGHT, JOUSUKE-SAMA.
LET'S GO, OBORO-SAMA.
GRIP
WELL...
...I GUESS I SHOULD FIND A WELL OR SOMETHING SO I CAN WASH OFF ALL THIS BLOOD.
HMMPH... AKEGINU REALLY WAS...
...TRYING TO KILL ME BACK THERE.

SHOOSH

HMMPH...SHE MUST REALLY HATE ME.
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO DEFEND HER PRIDE.

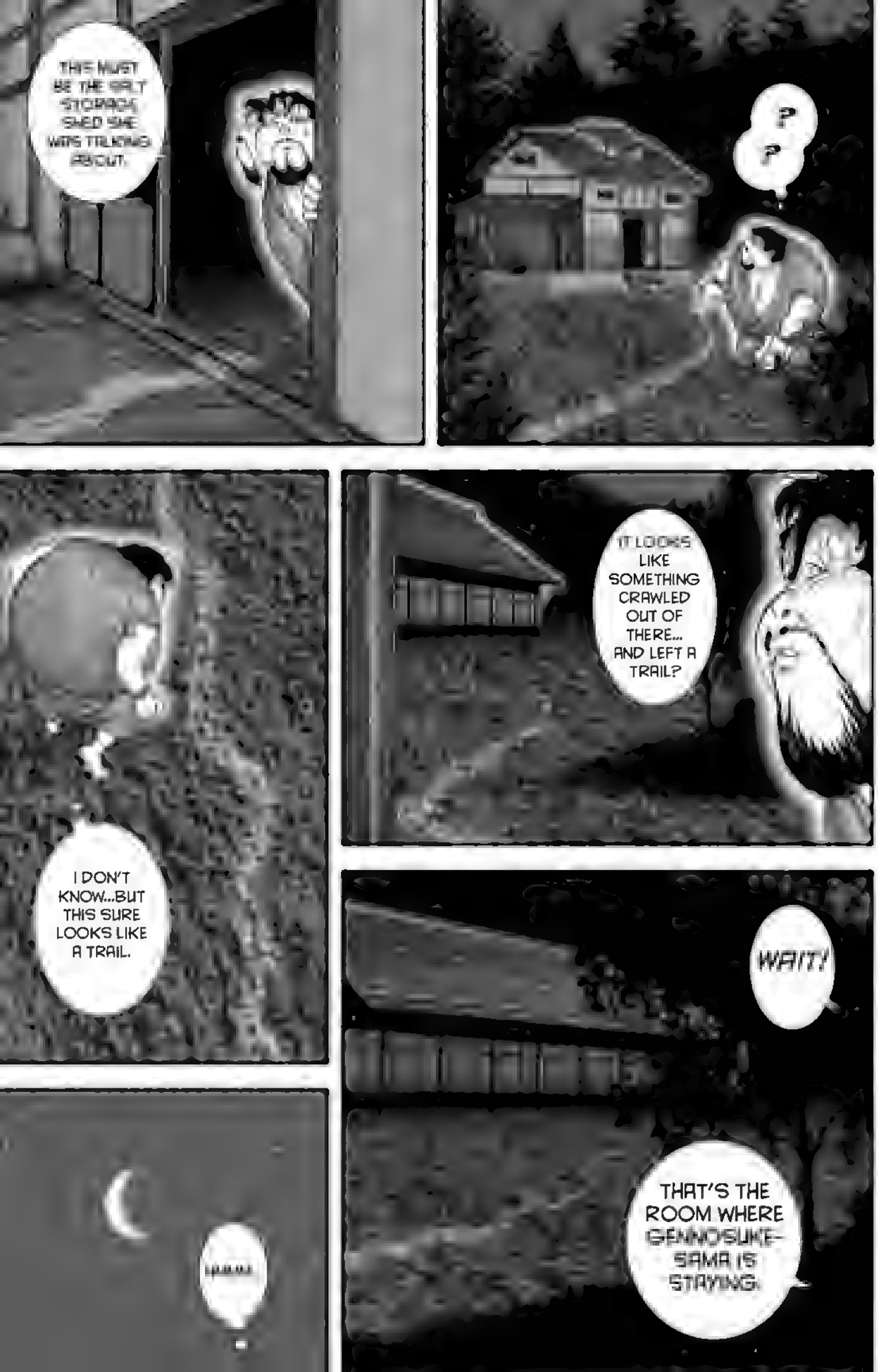
SHOOSH
WHAT...
WHAT...

SHOOSH
NEAR WATERFALL - OGEN'S PALACE GROUNDS

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

HUH?

OGEN'S PALACE IS SO HUGE.
I GET LOST EVERYWHERE I GO.


THIS MUST BE THE GIRL STORACH SHED SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
?
?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING CRAWLED OUT OF THERE... AND LEFT A TRAIL?
I DON'T KNOW...BUT THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE A TRAIL.
WAIT!
THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS STAYING.
HMM.

THAT WAS YOUR TRAIL LEADING FROM THE SALT SHED TO GENNOSUKE-SAMA'S ROOM.
JINGOROU AMAYO...
...TO CHANGE SHAPE AND ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WEREN'T YOU, AMAYO?
YOU WERE TRYING...
HEH.
YOU'RE PRETTY THIRSTY, AREN'T YOU, AMAYO?

AAAHHH!
WAAATER!
WAAATER!
OKAY... SPILL IT!
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
...JUST WHEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ARE ABOUT TO MAKE PEACE?
TELL ME THE ANSWER, AND YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE WATER YOU WANT, AMAYO.

THE HATTORI... TRUCE HAS
AHHH
IGA AND—
KOUGA AND...
WHA- WHAT? THE HATTORI TRUCE?
AND?
AHHH
THE WAR HAS BEGUN!
WHAT ABOUT IGA AND KOUGA?

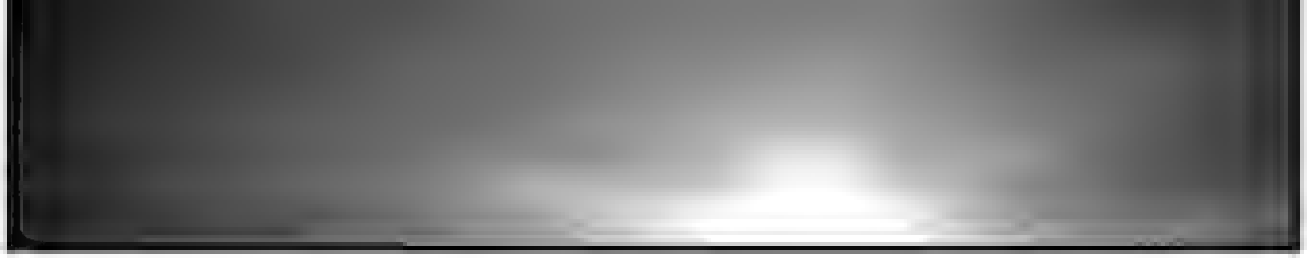
AAHH!!
DAMN, I SLIPPED!
HE MUST'VE ABSORBED SOME ENERGY FROM THE WATERFALL'S MIST

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL DROWN!
POOL! I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN THE WATER!
あはあああ
HAHHH
ゴボ
ゴボ
ゴボ
ゴボ

GASP

GWAH!!
XI!!
AHHHHH!
AHHHHH!

...IS NO MORE.
THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA. JOUSUKE UDONO...



KO
MAN
SECT

SANJOUK

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
HYAKUMA MUNEKATA
SCHOOL
SEAT

WELL...
GYOUBU KASUMI
SCHOOL
SEAT

YOU MEAN, BECAUSE JUUBEI JIMUSHI'S READING OF THE STARS PREDICTED ILL FORTUNE FOR DANJOU-

COULD SOMETHING HAVE GONE WRONG IN SUNPU?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA HASN'T RETURNED SINCE HE LEFT TO MEET OBORO OF THE IGA CLAN...
THAT REMINDS ME...
SAEMON KISARAGI
KOUGA [illegible] SECT
.....
HE SAID THAT GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND JOUSUKE WOULD BE STAYING IN IGA FOR A FEW DAYS.
LAST NIGHT, AN IGA MESSENGER ARRIVED.

WHY IS GENNOSUKE-SAMA SO DESPERATE...
...TO SEE THAT OBORO GIRL?
TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 2

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

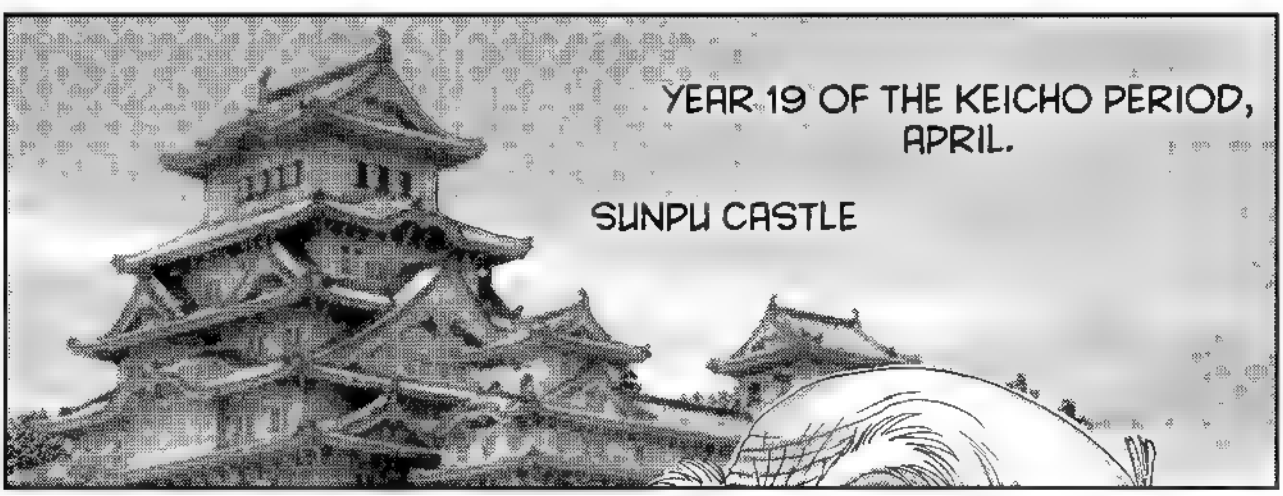
Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture,
Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan*.
He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series Senma Monogatari, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series Onigiri Jyuuzou, which ended in 2000. This is his second long-running series, and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon.
He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



THE KEICHO ERA, PAGE 7

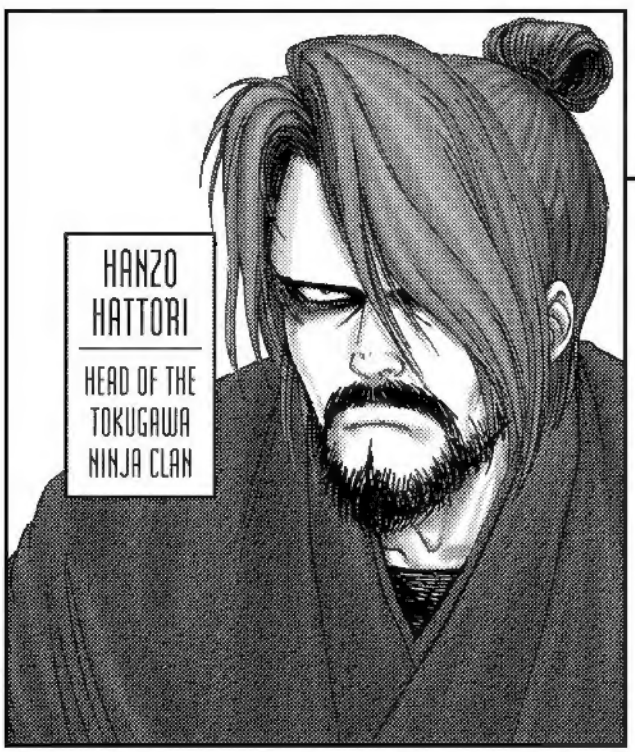
The Keicho Era took place between 1596–1615. Year 15 of the Keicho Era would be the year 1610. Sunpu is the ancient name for the city of Shizuoka, where Sunpu castle was situated. Sometime in the early 1580s, Ieyasu Tokugawa took over the castle. Although Tokugawa lived in Edo for most of his life, he spent his later years in Sunpu. The ruins and rebuilt sections of the castle can still be visited today.

IEYASU TOKUGAWA, PAGE 7

Ieyasu Tokugawa (1543–1616) was the seventh Tokugawa shogun. After the emperor granted him the position of shogun, Tokugawa set up his government in Edo (Edo is the old name for Tokyo).

MUNENORI YAGYUU, PAGE 7

Munenori Yagyuu (1571–1646) was a skilled swordsman who served Ieyasu Tokugawa and taught swordplay to the Tokugawa samurai.

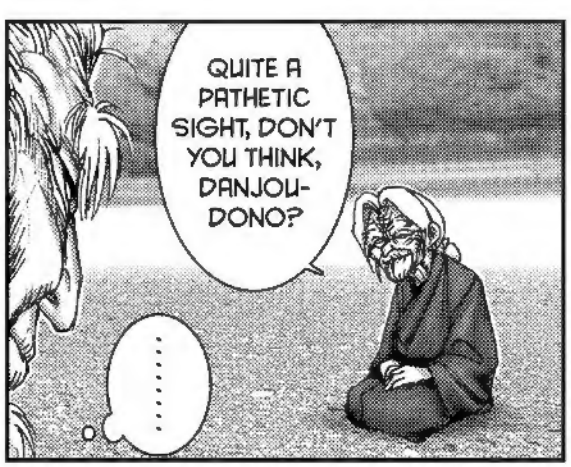


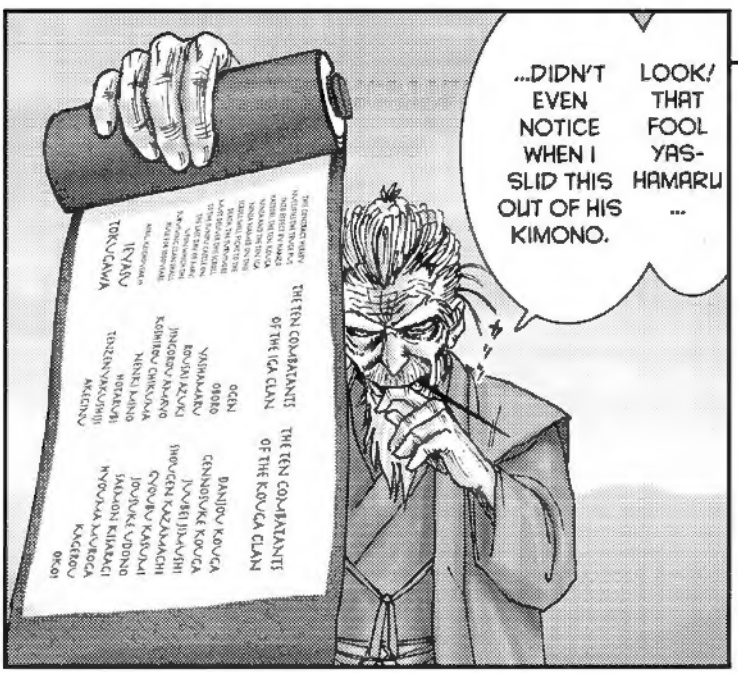
HANZO HATTORI, PAGE 7

Hanzo Hattori (1541–1596) was a famous ninja who loyally served Ieyasu Tokugawa. The scroll on page 26 refers to Hattori's predecessor, who was also named Hanzo Hattori. It is believed that there may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

DONO, PAGE 15

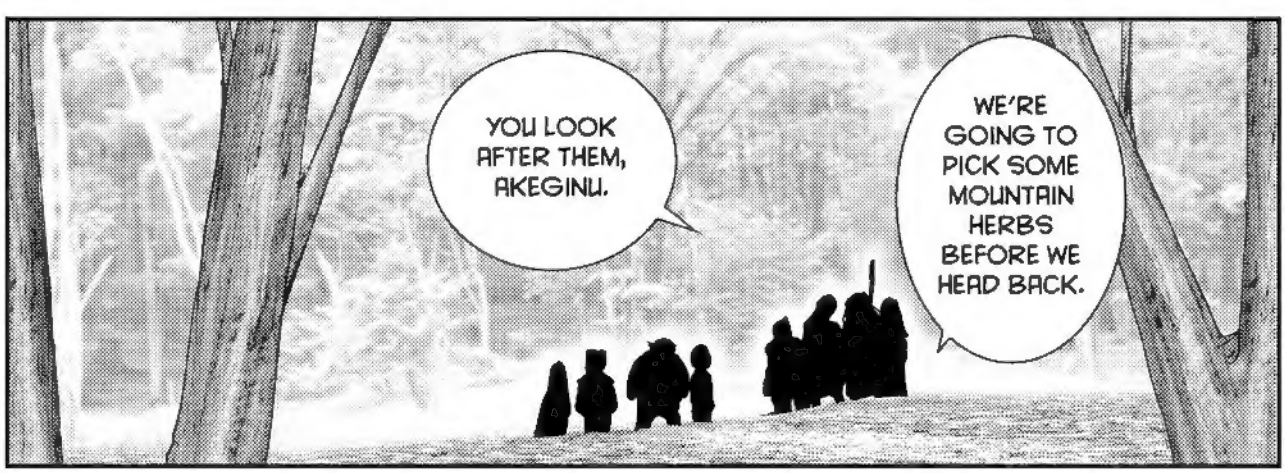
The honorific term "dono" after a person's name is used throughout Basilisk. "Dono" is an archaic honorific that is even more formal than "sama." It is only occasionally used today.




LOOK! THAT FOOL YASHAMARU ...
...DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN I SLID THIS OUT OF HIS KIMONO.
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN
THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

FUTOKORO, PAGE 43

Danjou Kouga actually slid the scroll out of Yashamaru's "futokoro." The futokoro is the place at the chest where two parts of a kimono come together. The futokoro was commonly used as a place to hold one's valuables.



***SANSAI*, PAGE 77**

Amayo mentions that his crew is going to pick "sansai." Sansai are vegetables such as young fern shoots and wasabi sprouts that grow in the mountainous areas of rural Japan. Sansai are often added to soba and udon soups.

***KOU NO MONO*, PAGE 151**

"Kou no mono" is an archaic term for pickled vegetables. In modern times, they are generally called "tsukemono." The Japanese eat a variety of pickled vegetables, such as cucumbers, eggplant, and daikon radish, to name but a few.

***FUSUMA*, PAGE 160**

The door in Udono's room is called a "fusuma." Fusuma are wooden doors covered with hard paper. When Udono realizes the door is actually made of steel, he knows that the Iga clan is up to something.